

Unity of invention exists only when there is a technical relationship among the claimed inventions involving one or more special technical features.

The Examiner suggests that there is no special technical feature uniting Groups I and II because Group II does not require the particulars of Group I in that the layered double hydroxide produced by the process of Group I can be prepared by another materially different process.

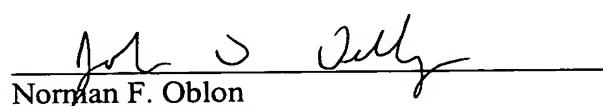
Group II claims a layered double hydroxide product. This layered double hydroxide product is a product of the Group I claims. Under PCT Rule 13, the inclusion of an independent claim for a product in addition to an independent claim for a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the product is permitted. *See MPEP § 1850.C(A)*. It is further noted that “the words ‘specially adapted’ are not intended to imply that the product could not also be manufactured by a different process.” Applicants respectfully submit that the inventions of Group I and II have unity of invention based on this relationship.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the Restriction Requirement is improper, and respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

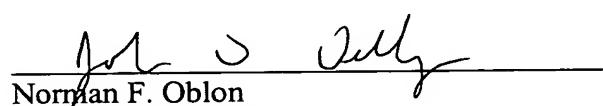
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